

1 I Claim:

2 1. A method of searching a network of interconnected computers and servers

3 ^{sub} comprising:

4 categorizing information stored on a plurality of information servers connected to
5 a network to form categorization information;

6 collecting and storing the categorization information and network addresses of the
7 information servers on a plurality of IBSP servers;

8 transmitting the categorization information and network addresses of the plurality
9 of information servers from an IBSP server to user nodes, broadcast server nodes, or
10 firewall server nodes over the network;

11 accepting a query on a user node connected to the network;

12 transmitting the query from the user node directly to a plurality of information
13 servers or to a broadcast server or a firewall server over the network;

14 the broadcast server or firewall server receiving and transmitting the user node
15 query to the plurality of information servers;

16 the information servers searching themselves for information responsive to the
17 user node query; and

18 each of the plurality of information servers transmitting information responsive to
19 the user node query to the user node or the firewall server for forwarding to the user node
20 when responsive information is found.

21
22 2. The method of searching a network of interconnected computers and servers of

23 claim 1 further comprising:

1
2 the user node categorizing each user node query according to the categorization
3 information prior to transmitting the user node query.
4

5 3. The method of searching a network of interconnected computers and servers of
6 claim 1, wherein the categorized information and network addresses comprise
7 information selected from the group consisting of website language, general contents,
8 domain name, and IP address.
9

10 4. The method of searching a network of interconnected computers and servers of
11 claim 1, wherein the user node is connected to the network via a firewall node connected
12 to the network.
13

14 5. A system for searching a network of interconnected computers and servers
15 comprising:
16 a plurality of information servers connected over a network, each comprising
17 instructions for categorizing information resident on the information servers to form
18 categorization information and for transmitting their network address and categorization
19 information to an IBSP server;

20 the IBSP server connected to the network and comprising instructions for
21 receiving the network addresses and categorization information from the information
22 servers and for transmitting same to a plurality of user nodes connected to the IBSP
23 server over the network;

1 the plurality of user nodes each comprising instructions for receiving the network
2 addresses and categorization information of the information servers from the IBSP server
3 and for accepting and categorizing user queries based upon information server
4 categorization information;

5 the plurality of user nodes further comprising instructions for transmitting the user
6 nodes' network address and the categorized queries to the plurality of information servers
7 with the same categorization as the query; and

8 the information servers further comprising instructions for searching themselves
9 for information responsive to the categorized queries from the user nodes and retuning
10 information responsive to the categorized queries to the user nodes transmitting the
11 categorized queries.

12
13 6. A system for searching a network of interconnected computers and servers
14 comprising:

15 a plurality of information servers connected over a network, each comprising
16 instructions for categorizing information resident on the information servers to form
17 categorization information and for transmitting their network address and categorization
18 information to an IBSP server;

19 the IBSP server connected to the network and comprising instructions for
20 receiving the network addresses and categorization information from the information
21 servers and for transmitting same to a plurality of broadcast server nodes;

22 a plurality of user nodes each comprising instructions for accepting and
23 categorizing user queries based upon the information server categorization information;

1 a plurality of user nodes comprising instructions for accepting and categorizing
2 user queries based upon the information server categorization;
3 the plurality of user nodes further comprising instructions for transmitting the user
4 node's network address and the categorized queries to a firewall server over the network;
5 a plurality of firewall servers each comprising instructions for receiving the
6 network addresses and the categorization information of the information servers from the
7 IBSP server;
8 the firewall servers further comprising instructions for receiving the user node's
9 network addresses and categorized the queries from a plurality of user nodes;
10 the firewall servers further comprising instructions for transmitting the firewall node's
11 network address, the user node addresses, and the categorized queries to the plurality of
12 information servers; and
13 the information servers further comprising instructions for searching themselves
14 for information responsive to the categorized queries from the user nodes and retuning
15 information responsive to the categorized queries to the firewall server for forwarding to
16 the user nodes transmitting the categorized queries.